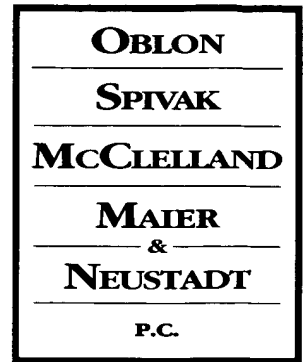


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Docket No.: 207682US3KK



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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 09/849,259
Applicants: Junichi KITANO, et al.
Filing Date: May 7, 2001
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
COATING AND DEVELOPING
Group Art Unit: 1752
Examiner: THORNTON, Y.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREGORY J. MAIER
(703) 413-3000
GMAIER@OBLON.COM

CHRISTOPHER D. WARD
SENIOR ASSOCIATE
(703) 413-3000
CWARD@OBLON.COM

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
Junichi KITANO, et al. : EXAMINER: THORNTON, Y.
SERIAL NO: 09/849,259 :
FILED: May 7, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1752
FOR: METHOD AND SYSTEM :
FOR COATING AND
DEVELOPING

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 23, 2003, the Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group II corresponding to Claims 11-21.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement based on MPEP § 803, which states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

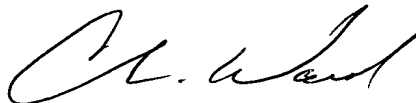
The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Application Serial No.: 09/849,259
Junichi KITANO, et al.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-21 be conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220

GJM:CDW:brf

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